

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance is requested in consideration of the following remarks and amendments. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 15, 19, 25 and 27-28 are currently pending in connection with the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 15 and 19 have been amended, claims 27 and 28 were added, and claims 4, 5, 10-14, 16-18, 20-24 and 26 were cancelled. There is no new matter. Furthermore, Applicant submits that there are no new issues for consideration as all of the new claims and amendments to claim 1 simply incorporate the allowable subject matter formerly present in claim 5 and currently present in claims 6 and 15, or otherwise clarify the intended scope of the claims. Applicants traverse the rejections set forth in the office action dated November 14, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate that claims 5, 6, 15-17 and 21-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 27 and 28 incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 5, 6 and 15, respectively. Therefore, it is submitted that amended, independent claim 1 and new claims 27 and 28 are allowable, in view of the Examiner's allowance of the subject matter in these claims.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Watanabe/Abi-Nassif Rejection

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 12-14, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,668) in view of Abi-Nassif (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,792).

By this Amendment, every independent claim has been either placed in allowable form or cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of the claims, and those claims dependent thereon, is now moot.

CONCLUSION

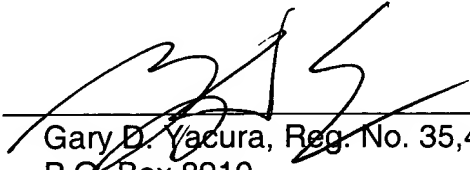
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of each of claims 1-3, 6-9, 15, 19, 25 and 27-28 is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By: _____


Gary D. Yacura, Reg. No. 35,416
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

GDY/NMZ:lak